SAALT is outraged that a second mistrial was declared yesterday after a deadlocked jury once again failed to convict Madison, AL police officer, Eric Parker, on a civil rights charge brought against him by the U.S. Department of Justice earlier this year. Parker was captured on video beating Indian grandfather, Sureshbhai Patel, to the point of partial paralysis in February of this year after Patel, initially identified by a neighbor as a "suspicious Black man," repeatedly told the officer he could not speak English. The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Alabama re-tried the case after the first mistrial was declared in September.

While the trial was supposed to focus on the unreasonable use of force that Parker used on Patel, it was Patel's immigration status and English proficiency skills that were really on trial. Parker's attorney wasted no time coming out swinging with his opening remarks when the second trial began on October 27th. "When you come to the U.S. we expect you to follow our laws and speak our language," he said. "Mr. Patel bears as much responsibility for this as anyone." As we see time again with police brutality cases in this country, it is the victim who is on trial. The message is loud and clear that police brutality rarely warrants punishment. Black Lives Matter has brought this to the forefront of public discourse, but our legal system willfully refuses to prosecute this reality.

[Dante Barry or Alicia Garza quote]

[Asha Kiran quote]

We cannot rest until justice is served in this case and all cases of police brutality in this country, too many of which have led to wrongful deaths.